

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

State Water Plan Contamination Remediation Program



KDHE Partners with National Beef to Ensure Clean Water

Background:

The 8th & Country site was referred to KDHE's State Water Plan program in 1994 after contamination was detected in Well #3 for the National Beef Packing Company. Well #3 is the primary water supply well for the company and is classified as a public water supply well. Volatile organic compounds (1,1-dichloroethylene and 1,1,1-trichloroethylene) have consistently been detected in water samples collected from the well at levels exceeding drinking water standards. Various investigations were conducted at the site to identify a responsible party. Results were inconclusive and a responsible party could not be identified.

Solution:

Since no source for the contamination was identified, KDHE's State Water Plan program designed and constructed a remedial air-stripper system to remove contaminated water pumped from Well #3.



Permanent building to house air stripper.

A state/private partnership negotiated between National Beef and KDHE stipulated that National Beef operate and maintain the air-stripper after installation. This approach provides for National Beef to continue using Well #3 for their everyday operations. Continued usage of Well #3 provides containment of the contamination and will reduce the total mass of contamination in ground water over time. The air stripping system was installed and became operational in July 1999. Monitoring of system performance indicates that the stripper is performing as designed and has reduced concentrations of volatile organic compounds in water pumped from Well #3 to undetectable levels.

Benefits:

- 533 million gallons of water treated at the site.
- Continued operation of the National Beef facility which employs 2000 people.



Air stripper prior to installation.